



NOAA - National Weather Service

Tampa Bay Area

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<http://weather.gov/tampa>

NWS TAMPA BAY PARTICIPATES IN THE SARASOTA 2012 CUSTODIAL CONFERENCE

On March 14, 2012 the National Weather Service Tampa Bay Area (NWS) participated in the 2012 Custodial Day Conference in Osprey, Florida. This was the first time the Weather Service has collaborated with this outstanding group of people, made possible by the coordination between the National Weather Service Amateur Radio Program and Custodial Conference Coordinator Jim Woodson (see Fig 1).

Hundreds of area custodial employees, guests, and vendors spent the day at the Pine View School Complex in Osprey, Florida to participate in the multitude of activities, workshops and training classes offered throughout the conference. NWS Meteorologist Anthony Reynes, Skywarn Amateur Radio Program Coordinator, conducted 5 sessions of Basic Skywarn Training from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Nearly 80 people completed the course and were certified as official Skywarn Spotters for the Weather Service. These trained spotters play a vital role in providing accurate field reports during hazardous weather events.



Figure 1. Top: The 2012 Custodial Day Conference in full force at Pine View School Complex in Osprey, Fl. Bottom Left: Students attending one of 5 Skywarn Basic Training Sessions. Bottom Right: Administrative Assistance Mary Lou Hawkes (left), NWS Meteorologist Anthony Reynes (center), and Custodial Conference Coordinator Jim Woodson (right).



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The contributions of the Skywarn Spotters to NWS operations are crucial in the fulfillment of our mission of saving lives and property. With collaborations like these, the National Weather Service Tampa Bay Area is able to further strengthen its relations with the community, while promoting the important message of awareness and preparedness for hazardous weather around West Central and Southwest Florida.



Figure 2. Top: Vendors and Attendees gathering at the 2012 Custodial Day Conference. Bottom: musical act during the Custodial Day Conference lunch banquet.